

JULIEN DISCRIT & CYRIELLE GULACSY

Rerun Nature

Duo show from September 3rd to October 29th 2022

Opening on September 3rd from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Exceptional closing from September 28th to October 4th.

*“Thou turn thy mind the more unto these bodies
Which here are witnessed tumbling in the light:
Namely, because such tumblings are a sign
That motions also of the primal stuff
Secret and viewless lurk beneath, behind.”*

Lucretius, *De rerum natura*.

Excerpt from Book two, The Atoms, 1st century BC

Nature has perhaps never been so much called upon in the field of visual arts. It seems that Nature is something that brings value to a show, something that has to be claimed. On the other hand, this concept is endlessly questioned and sounds out of date.

Rerun Nature exhibition, called after famous Lucretius' famous work, tries to bring an alternative reading of Nature's concept.

Gathering the works of Cyrielle Gulacsy, who has just joined the gallery, and those of Julien Discrit, the show offers a different approach by looking at Nature as a technical event. The works of the two artists may seem different at first glance, but their dialogue reveals on the contrary a common language, a mutual strategy.

This exhibition presents new paintings by Julien Discrit initiated in early 2022 with the “Aftertouch” series, as well as works on canvas and paper by Cyrielle Gulacsy around the theme of light, specifically produced for the exhibition.

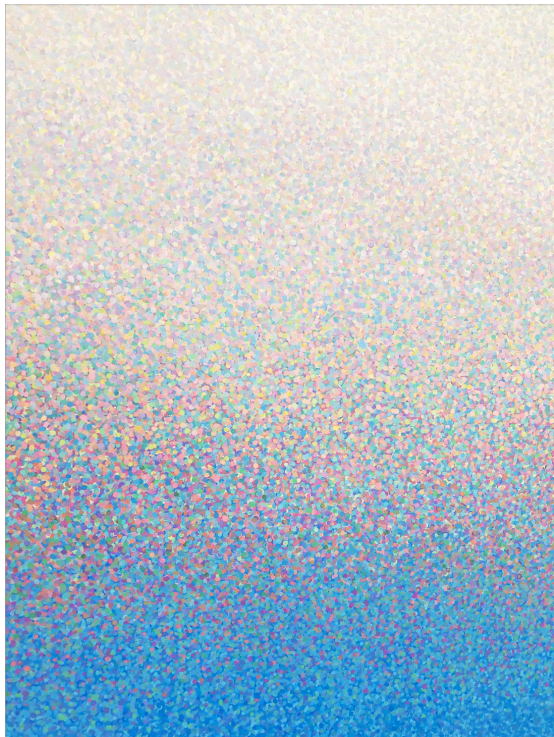


Cyrielle Gulacsy, *CS008*, 2021, Acrylic ink on canvas, 118 x 156 cm, courtesy Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou

The conceptual association between their works can be first seen in their common interest in astrophysics, nuclear physics, geography or Earth sciences... In both cases, this interest contributes to the development of a specific research.

Science provides an experimental, theoretical and aesthetic framework to their practice. Because it pays attention on the world, reveals hidden aspects of it and produces unusual images. However, Cyrielle Gulacsy and Julien Discrit do not fail to question this framework by juxtaposing scientific observation and individual perception. They play on the gap between these two strategies, which builds our fragile knowledge of the universe.

The title of the exhibition evokes their common approach and a singular reading of the concept of Nature. *Rerun Nature* came from an autocorrect text (algorithmic correction) of Lucretius famous book *De Rerum Natura* and diverts it in an involuntary way to produce a new meaning. In this exhibition, the purpose is “to execute the program” (Run>Nature), as the computer language suggests. Each of the two artists starting point seems to be a kind of radical unity of matter that leads them to use all its physical characteristics and combinatory properties. If Nature “tends to equilibrium”, it also “tends to compose”. And this is how it acts as a technology. Thus, Cyrielle Gulacsy and Julien Discrit have decided to explore this combinatorial behaviour and materiality.



Left: Cyrielle Gulacsy, *LD 01, Diffusion de la lumière solaire à travers l'atmosphère terrestre*, 2020, acrylic ink on paper, 112 x 77 cm

Right: Julien Discrit, *Aftertouch 1B*, 2022, acrylic painting on wood, 50 x 40 cm

courtesy Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou

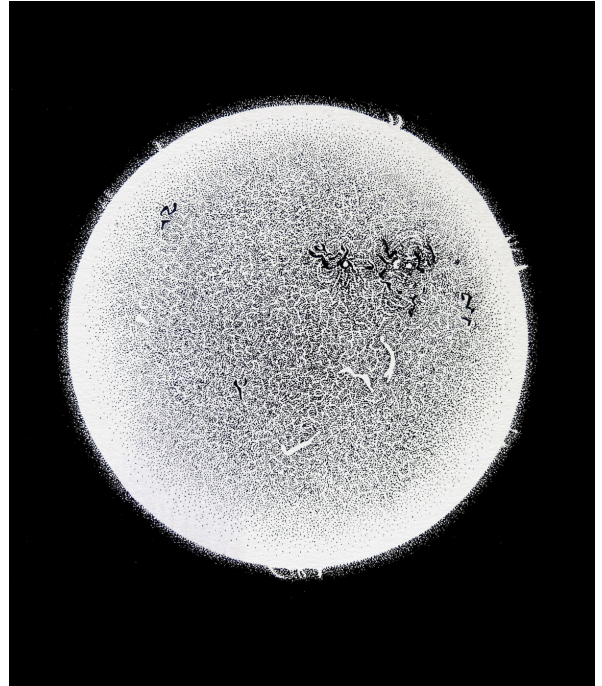
Inspired by scientific and spatial imagery, the series of paintings entitled "Light Diffusion" presents large and luminous color field, composed of a myriad of colored dots. This emblematic technique of Cyrielle Gulacsy's work is not, strictly speaking, "pointillist". Conversely, we should take up the filiation suggested by the title of the exhibition which mentions the Greek *Phusis*, and perhaps describe her painting technique as "atomist".

Thanks to the juxtaposition and the entanglement of these unbreakable elements, produced by these innumerable brushstrokes, the artist allows us to experiment the passage of the white light to the visible. Thanks to these color dots, she gives us to a world made of matter and void, a world where all things, alive or inert, are made of the same corpuscular material.

Here "Rerun" would also means "broadcast", or "retransmitting" information. As in her work *24 hours, Sun H-Alpha* which presents twenty-four views of the Sun, that she produced with the same system of repetition. No other color here but the black of ink and the white of paper. The image is like a swarming and vibrating sphere that evokes both Solar star and the core of an atom. Thus, emitted light is always represented in the form of dots. Whether they are the size of a particle or a celestial object, they reveal an aspect of the world that is inaccessible to us. The void becomes almost palpable and by taking form, brings us closer to the nature of things.

Julien Discrit's paintings uses "natural" process as starting point. The question is concretely to consider the work of nature (or rather work of the Earth itself) as a whole technical process, which the artist can seize to create his own forms. This has been the guiding principle he has developed in the past few years. In this case, *ReRun Nature* would mean "to replay" Nature: not to represent nor even to reproduce it, but "to use it". For example, erosion process and geomorphological forces were at the origin of his sculptures' series entitled *Pensées* ("Thoughts"). Here, shapes were produced by a constant flow of water poured on a silica bed. Fossilization, considered as a moulding process brought him to produce his series called "Stones". Finally, principles of crystallization and arborescence are the driving forces of the the "Aftertouch" series, presented in the exhibition. At first, each of these paintings seems to be the result of a slow and meticulous repetitive work, as in Cyrielle Gulacsy's. But here the paintings are the result of a lightning gesture, similar to the shapes that can be seen on the canvas. These paintings are the result of the quick separation of two surfaces, that the paint had joined together right before. *Dendrites* (from ancient Greek "branch" or "tree") visible on the surface, are a trace of this past adhesion, the distribution lines of the matter between these two surfaces. It is then remarkable that these forms or these efflorescences are to be found in so many places: in the body of our neurons, in mineralogy, in the vegetable kingdom or even in fluid mechanics. This brings the idea of a "natural technique" at work, or a "technical nature"... In any case, this allows Julien Discrit to explore all the potential that this idea could bring, using shapes that are spontaneously generated and consciously guided at the same time.

Through their respective works, Cyrielle Gulacsy and Julien Discrit offer us with *Rerun Nature* an enlarged vision of a nature at work and seem to follow this enigmatic note of Marcel Duchamp who enjoins the artist not to "speak about", but "to speak with".



Left: Cyrielle Gulacsy, *Solar Dynamics 07 (H-alpha)*, 2022, Indian ink on paper, 20,5 x 16 cm

Right: Julien Discrit, *Aftertouch 1A*, 2022, acrylic painting on wood, 50 x 40 cm

courtesy Galerie Anne-Sarah Bénichou

Julien Discrit

Julien Discrit is a contemporary artist who was born in 1978 in Epernay. In addition to art, he has an education in geography as background, which has a central role in his practice. According to him, “cartography is not a purely formal exercise, but a way of thinking, which materializes both the visible and the invisible”. Intrinsicly, cartography can be considered as a process of formatting reality. Hence, what is produced is not a single truth attached to reality, but an intimate conception of its author. The artist applies this process through different mediums such as photography, sculpture, installations, performance and video. His work consists in revealing the discrepancies that can occur between reality and its depictions.

The way we experience time, history and geography is very important in his work. He grounds his reflection in the collective and visible landmarks to show what is hidden and unsaid. Thus, meaning is to understand such as a direction and an orientation against the uncertainty of existence. The artist offers his singular outlook on the world, as an attempt to question our perceptions and to spark reflection in our representation schemes.

Julien Discrit has participated in several solo and group shows in numerous institutions such as the National Museum of Singapore, the Centre Pompidou, The IAC Villeurbanne, the Minsheng Art Museum and the Ricard Foundation, among others.

Cyrielle Gulacsy

Cyrielle Gulacsy was born in the Paris region in 1994. She lives and works in Paris.

With the influence of modern physics, her work evolves towards the representation of an imperceptible reality close to abstraction, revealing the invisible laws of nature. Space-time, electromagnetism and light diffraction are all fields of research and experimentation that allow her to explore representations of reality. In her work, she explores our perception of light through space and time, trying to reveal the matter that composes it. Each point, whether it is the measure of a particle or a celestial object, gives substance to an inaccessible reality and offers a point of view at the same time intimate and dizzying of the world which surrounds us.